

From: Dexter Graphic
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 1:45pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To whom it may concern,
United States Department of Justice, Antitrust Division:

You asked for public comments under the Tunney Act on the Microsoft Antitrust Settlement, well, here is my opinion.

Microsoft has already been found guilty of misusing their monopoly power. Now punish them for it! The currently proposed settlement is a joke, it does not address any of the core issues. The only way other software companies can compete with Microsoft, or even survive in its shadow, is if the API (Application Programming Interface) which Microsoft uses to write programs that work with Windows is made available to all parties, free of charge, without licensing restrictions. These interfaces are what every programmer needs to know and use if they want to write Windows software; by exercising proprietary control over the APIs Microsoft effectively controls all the software that is written for Windows and holds dominion over every company or individual programmer, like myself, who wants to innovate in the computer technology field. This is the key to Microsoft's monopoly power! And by requiring them to openly publish the Windows API's (just the programming interface specifications not the program's source code) other software companies and individual programmers will be able to compete with them on a level playing field. Any settlement that does not require this is just a waste of time and money. It's a minimum requirement, in my opinion, for achieving competitive fairness and fostering an industry-wide environment of real software innovation.

Thanks for asking (and hopefully listening.)

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